

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent news operation consolidations and partisan actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves without charge for spectrum use, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But recent evidence suggests that, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of the diversity of opinion that we need for maintaining our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the Commission's license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.